



NEWS RELEASE

Congressman Joe Wilson



Representing the 2nd District of South Carolina

For Immediate Release

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July 22, 2002

Pilots, Classmate of 9-11 Pilot, and 103 Congressmen Urge Senate to Arm Pilots

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Rep. Joe Wilson, R-SC, joined pilots representing the Airline Pilots' Security Alliance, Allied Pilots Association and Pilots Association International to urge immediate Senate action on bipartisan arming pilots legislation that passed the House of Representatives overwhelmingly July 10th by a margin of 310-113. The bill, H.R. 4635 the Arming Pilots Against Terrorism Act, has been placed on the Senate Calendar, but Majority Leader Daschle has not moved it to a floor vote.

"It makes no sense for the Senate to delay arming pilots any longer. The public has affirmed time and time again that they want pilots armed to protect and defend against terrorist attacks," said Rep. Wilson at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport news conference. "The pilots support this measure as does over two-thirds of the House. Everyone is in agreement that this is a commonsense solution. What are we waiting for?"

"It is time for the Senator Daschle to move forward on this lifesaving legislation. Give those aboard our planes a fighting chance," said Rep. Wilson.

Rep. Wilson released a letter he spearheaded calling for Senate action signed by Transportation Committee Chairman Don Young, R-AK, and Aviation Subcommittee Chairman John Mica, R-FL with 101 other Republican and Democratic House members.

Don Jenkins, close friend and Naval Academy classmate of Captain Chuck (Chic) Burlingame, also joined Rep. Wilson. Captain Burlingame was piloting the American Airlines flight that crashed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

"Chic, like most commercial pilots, had served in the military and I firmly believe that he and the people aboard Flight 77 would be with us today had he been armed on September 11," said Don Jenkins. "We know that there are terrorists out there right now plotting to commit evil acts again. We can't allow those aboard our planes to be sitting ducks any longer."

"Further delay continues to place Americans, in the air and on the ground, at risk," said pilot Leon Laylagian, speaking on behalf of the Independent Pilots Association and the Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations.

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<http://www.house.gov/joewilson>

-- -- -- -- LETTER TO SENATE ATTACHED -- -- -- --

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 12, 2002

Majority Leader Tom Daschle
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4103

Chairman Ernest F. Hollings
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
508 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6125

Dear Senator Hollings and Senator Daschle:

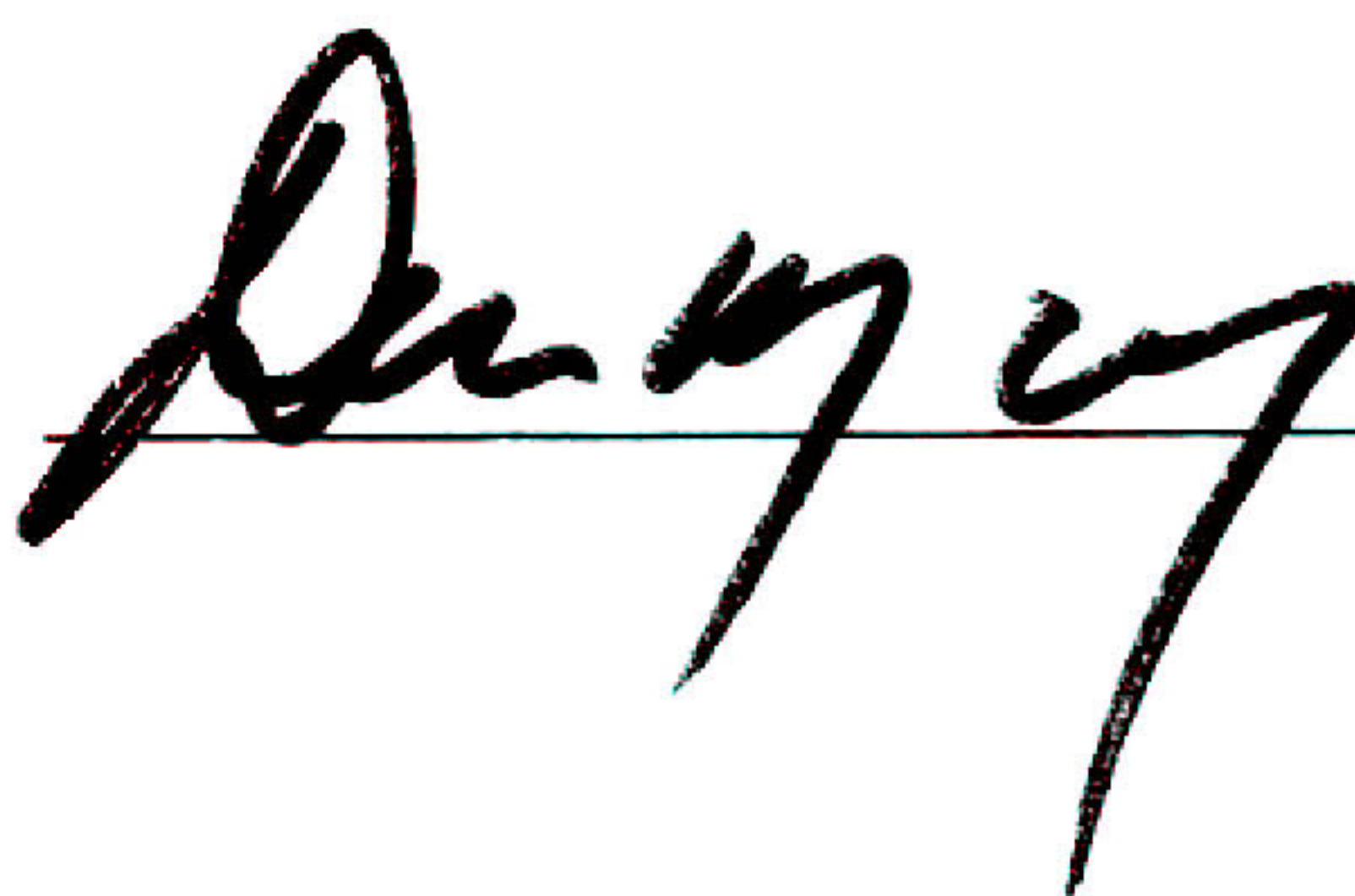
Yesterday, the House passed the "Arming Pilots Against Terrorism Act," (H.R. 4635). This bill has strong bipartisan support and is supported by numerous organizations. We urge you to take the necessary steps to pass this legislation and make airline travel safe for all Americans.

Currently, Senator Bob Smith has introduced the "Arming Pilots Against Terrorism and Cabin Defense Act of 2002," (S. 2554). We believe it is time for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, to hold a hearing on this bill. In the alternative, H.R. 4635 should be placed on the Senate Calendar and brought to the Senate Floor for action.

These proposed actions would demonstrate conclusively to the American people that the U.S. Congress is sincere about protecting their safety. Airline pilots are the last line of defense in protecting innocent civilians from the actions of murderous terrorists.

It is time for the Senate to take action and protect the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dan Claitor", written over a horizontal line.A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several overlapping loops, written over a horizontal line.

Cosigners on letter to Senate about arming pilots (103):

1. Don Young	52. Steve Chabot
2. John L. Mica	53. Patrick J. Tiberi
3. Joe Wilson	54. Gil Gutknecht
4. Robin Hayes	55. Sam Johnson
5. George R. Nethercutt, Jr.	56. Jo Ann Davis
6. Ron Paul	57. Robert W. Ney
7. Cliff Stearns	58. Sue W. Kelly
8. J.D. Hayworth	59. Doc Hastings
9. Philip M. Crane	60. Todd Tiahrt
10. Roscoe G. Bartlett	61. <i>Ronnie Shows</i>
11. Lindsey O. Graham	62. Saxby Chambliss
12. James V. Hansen	63. J.C. Watts, Jr.
13. Mark R. Kennedy	64. Tom DeLay
14. John T. Doolittle	65. Henry E. Brown, Jr.
15. W. Todd Akin	66. Jim DeMint
16. John A. Boehner	67. Jim Ryun
17. Charles F. Bass	68. Mike Pence
18. Eric Cantor	69. Walter B. Jones
19. Ed Bryant	70. Patrick J. Toomey
20. John J. Duncan, Jr.	71. Ernest J. Istook, Jr.
21. Lee Terry	72. John Abney Culberson
22. John Cooksey	73. Jeff Flake
23. John Boozman	74. Sue Wilkins Myrick
24. Jerry Moran	75. Melissa A. Hart
25. Brian D. Kerns	76. Edward L. Schrock
26. Bob Barr	77. Curt Weldon
27. Phil English	78. Bob Schaffer
28. Howard Coble	79. Jeff Miller
29. David Vitter	80. Pete Sessions
30. Timothy V. Johnson	81. Dennis R. Rehberg
31. Mark Foley	82. Bill Shuster
32. Joe Barton	83. <i>James A. Barcia</i>
33. Sam Graves	84. <i>Peter A. DeFazio</i>
34. Paul Ryan	85. Ander Crenshaw
35. Cass Ballenger	86. <i>Bob Clement</i>
36. Edward R. Royce	87. Mike Rogers
37. Ric Keller	88. Barbara Cubin
38. Jerry Weller	89. <i>Gene Green</i>
39. E. Clay Shaw, Jr.	90. Virgil H. Goode, Jr.
40. Don Sherwood	91. Darrell E. Issa
41. Ron Kind	92. Steve Buyer
42. Joel Hefley	93. <i>Michael R. McNulty</i>
43. Randy J. Forbes	94. Donald A. Manzullo
44. C.L. "Butch" Otter	95. Mike Ross
45. John Sullivan	96. Bob Riley
46. Van Hilleary	97. John E. Sweeney
47. Jack Kingston	98. Ron Lewis
48. Eric Cantor	99. Richard Pombo
49. John Hostettler	100. Tom Tancredo
50. Dave Weldon	101. Brian D. Kerns
51. John E. Sununu	102. John B. Shadegg
	103. Chris Cannon